



Borough Council- Regular Meeting February 5, 2024

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on the above date, was called to order by Council President Tracy W. Burke at 7:00pm. President Burke stated that this evening's meeting will be recorded this evening. Councilor Matthew DiNenna provided the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Borough Secretary Stacy E. Crandell noted that the following Borough Council and staff were present:

Council President Tracy W. Burke
Councilor Matthew J. DiNenna
Councilor Stephanie Hall
Councilor Edward M. Huber
Councilor Daryl W. Littlefield
Councilor Julie A. Munden
Councilor Donna M. Rogers

Mayor Daniel L. Yocum
Councilor Richard M. Walczak
Borough Manager Stacy E. Crandell
Police Chief Brian A. Newhall
Public Works Director Steven Coll
Borough Solicitor John A. Torrente

Missing were Councilor Matthew Sholly and Junior Councilor Elijah Steglik.

Mayor Daniel L. Yocum spoke about the Key to the Borough presentation. In the past it has been given to Jim Gallagher, Tom Quinn and Mark Lipkin, DDS for their longevity with the Borough. As a contrast, Mayor Yocum presented the Key to the Borough to Rev. John and Ann Marie Heidgerd of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for their E-meal community feeding program that started 5 years ago during COVID. Their volunteers feed our most vulnerable 6 days a week starting with non-perishable and now do hundreds of boxes of food. The Heidgerds thanked the trustees and remarked on the program and the outpouring of community support. They have 170 volunteers, most volunteer regularly and asked them to stand. The presentation was followed by a photo opportunity.

Council President Tracy Burke asked for motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion made by Councilor Daryl Littlefield, and seconded by Councilor Stephanie Hall, to approve the minutes from January 2, 2024, Reorganization/ Regular Borough Council Meeting and January 22, 2024, Work Session Minutes and approve the bills for the month of January 2024 and the recurring bills for the month of February 2024. The motion was approved.

Jessica Cimini, Souderton Connects Manager, was absent so Daryl Littlefield provided an update for Souderton Connects. On March 2nd the fire company auxiliary will be holding a Sportsmans' Day. Doors open at 5. Tickets are \$10.

Chief Brian Newhall announced they received 637 calls in January resulting in approximately 20 daily calls which is a decrease. 97 traffic stops, 42 citations issued and 14 vehicle crashes. The vast majority were not weather related. One arrest so far this year. Building renovations are almost done. Officer Meinhardt attended a class in which he is now a member of the Montgomery County Veteran Response Team. The new Part Time Evidence Technician has started. He and our Detective have updated our evidence room and brought it up to standard. Thanks to Public Works there were little issues with the weather. There have been acts of criminal mischief in the park and they are being tracked down. We continue to help people with fraud or attempted fraud and remind everyone that no government agency will call and ask for your social security number.



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They have been dealing with this almost daily. During the recent snow, Officer Meinhardt and Chief Newhall had the opportunity to go sledding with some local children. A great time was had by all. The 2023 annual report is completed and can be emailed to residents. Councilor Walczak asked about the youths damaging the park and if they were local. Chief Newhall said they were.

Steve Coll reported they were out three times for salting and plowing. After the snow they will be finishing up the sewer main on Wile Avenue and some other little sewer issues. Three storm drain projects will be underway when the weather cooperates. Councilor Walczak asked about the resident that complained to council about their alley and he was under the impression that alleys were the responsibility of the homeowner. Steve said they help where they can with maintenance and paving. Councilor DiNenna asked about the issues with the bathrooms in the park. Youths have been trashing the bathroom with wet toilet paper. He suggested a sign to help figure out a time frame when it is being done. It's just a daily nuisance.

Tracy Burke introduced the new Borough Solicitor, John Torrente of Begley, Carlin and Mandio, LLC. Mr. Torrente thanked the council for the appointment of solicitor and said he looked forward to working with everyone. He brought 2 matters to the attention of the council for consideration. They were the change in the Short Term, Long Term and AD & D coverage raising the coverage by \$50,000 per the police contract and the rental lease of the concession stand at the Souderton Borough Pool by Downtown Scoop in the amount of \$750 a month for 3 months.

Councilor Matthew DiNenna spoke on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee about the setting of Park rental fees and the Non-Profit waiver policy. They will be discussed in more detail at the February Work Session.

Councilor Stephanie Hall stated that the Economic Development Committee met regarding the Cherry Lane property. The committee will have a recommendation for council at the next work session.

Councilor Donna Rogers stated that the Finance Committee will be planning to meet soon and will have a date within a week. Tracy Burke discussed accountability of committee for savings targets and building up the capital reserve. The manager is already working on a master plan targeting capital planning. There will be a priority on the Finance Committee this year to meet monthly.

Councilor Daryl Littlefield spoke of the Public Outreach Committee and stated they will be working to review their objectives for this year. Councilor Hall asked if they were holding office hours this year. It will be discussed at the next Public Outreach meeting.

Council President Tracy Burke opened the floor to the audience for public comment. Mrs. Werner of 18 N. Hunsberger Lane wanted to discuss the streetlight at Hunsberger Lane and Broad has been out since the fall. She has been sending pictures to PPL. Councilor Burke asked if it had been called in and Steve Coll said it was. The resident said they have had catalytic converters from cars on her street have been stolen. She walks in the dark and the light does not come on. She asked if anyone could give her some help. Tracy said the borough will do a follow up with PPL. It was asked if the neighbors had reported the theft. Chief Newhall confirmed. She is also interested in the necessity of the tax increase and voiced her displeasure of increasing taxes. There being no more comments, Councilor Burke closed the Public Comment section of the meeting.



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A motion was made by Councilor Walczak and seconded by Councilor Hall to appoint Joseph J. Quigley to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission with a term ending December 31, 2025. The motion was approved.

Borough Manager Crandell stated that our current fee schedule had not been revised since 2014. She presented a new fee schedule that will be updated on an annual basis. A motion was made by Councilor Walczak and seconded by Councilor Littlefield to approve Resolution 2024-04 – Revising the Fee Schedule and adopting the 2024 Fee Schedule. The motion was approved.

Our Life Insurance, Long Term and Short-Term Disability Insurance has been updated to The Standard adding an additional \$50,000 to the police current benefit, raising it to \$200,000. The update had already been signed by the PBA. It will be savings of \$20,000 per year. A motion was made by Councilor Hall and seconded by Councilor Munden to approve and execute the agreement with the Police Department for Life Insurance Thresholds. The motion was approved.

Borough Manager Crandell discussed the advertising of selling of several items such as older police vehicles and Public Works items on Municibid. Mayor Yocum presented the option of a local auction house to sell the more unusual items. Mayor Yocum asked if the sale of the older police vehicles would go towards the purchase of a newer police vehicle. Manager Crandell said that is an option. A motion was made by Councilor Walczak and seconded by Councilor Rogers to approve Resolution 2024-05 – Authorizing the Advertisement for the sale of various items to be placed on Municibid. The motion was approved.

Borough Manager Crandell reported that we have retained Downtown Scoops to oversee our concession stand this summer. They are paying \$750 a month for 3 months. A motion was made by Councilor DiNenna and seconded by Councilor Walczak to approve the Concession Stand agreement with Downtown Scoops for the 2024 Pool Season. The motion was approved.

Borough Manager Crandell presented the request to reduce the bond for Towne Gate Commons- Phase 2B-2 Berkely Court improvements by \$1 million and keep a \$2.5 million bond approved by LVL Engineers. A motion was made by Councilor Rogers and seconded by Councilor Huber to approve Resolution 2024-06 – Approving the bond reduction for the Towne Gate Commons – Phase 2B-2 Berkely Court in the amount of \$1,081,227.67, which the approval is contingent on the issuance of a new bond in the name of the Souderton Borough for the remaining bond amount. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy E. Crandell

Stacy E. Crandell, Secretary